

Monongalia



Mirror

A WEEKLY FAMILY NEWSPAPER—Independent of Party Politics or Religious Sects.—Devoted to News, Literature, Morality, Agriculture, the Arts, &c.

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POETICAL

The following beautiful lines, from the Dublin University Magazine, will remind the reader of the last scene in Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress."

BEYOND THE RIVER.

Time is a river, and wide,
And while its banks we stray,
We see our loved ones o'er its tide
Sail from our sight away.
Where are the ones who return
No more to our longing eyes?
They've passed on life's contracted bourne
To land unknown, that lies
Beyond the river.
The bird from the nest,
How soon it flies away,
For glances that were
In vision clear.
The very dust that flies
They've raised for mortal sight,
With golden purple tints glow,
Reflecting the glorious light
Beyond the river.
And gentle, so sweet, so calm,
Still comes from that viewless sphere;
The angels' breath of balm,
And sweet sorrow dries the tear,
And gentlest blessing can gain
Entrance round that hither shore.
The echo of distant strain,
Of harp and voice, blended notes,
Beyond the river.
There are loved ones in their rest,
They're on Time's River—now no more
They need a journey on its breast,
Nor feel the storm that sweeps its shore.
But there, love can live, can last—
They look us to their home to share;
When we turn away have passed,
What joy, greetings wait us there,
Beyond the river.
To be reborn by all who know they're
Living for his paper.
It is pleasant to sit with one's wife,
By the fire, with a brilliant taper,
While one ear companion for life
Looks on the family paper—
And now a then reads a song or a story,
Marriage—death, or a tragedy gory.
To feel that's nothing to do
But to mind philosophize gravely:
Each morn'g we do to each other—
Applaud the editor bravely,
For his tact and his talent, his scars,
Now wake to laughter—now moving to tears.
Happy then that is lost
With a wife who can testify read,
Who will give his newspapers no rest,
Till his life have all gone to seed;
Who exclaims now and then as she picks up his
Taper,
"My dear, we the printer want pay for his
paper?"

LOVE FOR LOVE.

I never did any lustre see
In eyes that would not look on me;
I never did any nectar on a lip,
But when my own did hope to sip.
Has the soul who seeks my heart
Checks rose untouched by art?
I will of the color true,
When yielding blushes aid their hue.
Is her hair so soft and pure?
I must kiss it, to be sure;
Nor can be certain then,
Till it's safely pressed again.
Must I with attentive eye,
Watch her heavy bosom sigh?
I will, so, when I see
That saving bosom sigh for me.
SHERIDAN.
The sign \$ for dollars is
Spanish word for dol-
lar, accounts the word is writ-
ten on the plural, and
old and placed before the num-
ber, we find it abbreviated
\$ towards we find the small p
\$ let's see on the lower
of the p. Next to the curved
of the p is omitted, which is
the present dollar sign \$. The use of two
\$ in the sign is modern in its
origin. Thus the sign \$ is equivalent to
the word pence.
A lady living near San Antonio re-
cently gave birth to two pairs of twins at
the same time—fine healthy babies.

A TRIP TO THE NORTH.

Editors of the Mirror having been called to the transaction of some business in the city of Buffalo, N. Y., we left home on Monday the 4th, for that city. Had we been on a pleasure excursion alone, we could not have selected a more inviting or more delightful route than the one over which we travelled. From Pittsburgh, took the Rail-road, leading out through a fine section of country to the Western Reserve, Ohio, then opened on a fine line, a beautiful rolling country such as it is really a pleasure to see, and which were not for the sake of some other local diseases, would tempt one away from high hills and deep hollows. The Reserve is a happy dotted over with pretty farm houses, surrounded by fine pastures and cultivated grounds, and the traveler frequently reminded by signs and other evidences, that here is the country noted for the production of "Western Reserve Cheese." There are very pleasant towns and villages scattered about, 6 to 10 miles apart, which display much taste and refinement and give pleasant variety to the country. Carried by the speed of the locomotive, we soon arrived safely in Cleveland, which has been appropriately styled the "Forest City." It is a beautiful place; fine buildings richly ornamented with shade trees and shrubbery, set the eye in every direction. This city is destined, on account of its commercial and other advantages, to spread widely over the fine, level country which reaches back from its position on Lake Erie. Here we bade farewell for the first time, the beauty of the lake, reaching far out until the eye, vainly looking for land, would imagine a low, distant mountain in the line of the horizon of water, were it not for the many vessels which are rising lazily about on the bosom of the lake, and they appear but as small specks in the distance.

From Cleveland, we took the Lake Shore Rail-road, leading through Erie, Dunkirk and other large places to Buffalo. The beautiful scenery of the Lake Shore is indescribable, and there are many wonders, both in nature and art, which we should like to notice, but space will not permit. Buffalo is a great and growing city, and is noted for the industry and enterprise of its inhabitants, no less than for its extensive commercial advantages, and we will add that it ought to be noted for the sociability of the citizens.

On Friday morning, June 8th we left Buffalo for Niagara Falls, 23 miles distant. We could have wished that our speed had been slower than that of the locomotive, that we might have enjoyed more, the beautiful scenery along Niagara river. We had a look fast, but were enabled to glance at many interesting points on the American and Canada sides of this remarkable river. We were soon aware, from the narrowing, rapid appearance of the river, that we were nearing the great Cataract! Soon we were enabled to hear, strangely mingling with the noise of our rushing train, the roar of the "mad waters." In a moment the train stopped, and we were in the midst of the beautiful town located at the falls. But it had no attractions to us, for there was something in the roar of the Falls which caused us to break through the wall of porters, hack-men, &c. and to hasten on to something more interesting! We were soon looking upon the rapids, above the Falls, as they went plunging and foaming towards the great precipice. This was a sight well calculated to prepare one for the view of the great fall. We had descended the long stairway of over 700 steps, in order to get below the Falls, where we could view them in all their grandeur. One look, and before us was the great Cataract of Niagara! Would that we could convey even a faint idea of the scene, to those who have not beheld it; but we cannot. There is exhibited, in a sublime, but awful scene, a work of the Almighty! Well might the untutored savage say "there is where the Great Spirit falls!"

We joined the visitors, and clambered along the rocky shore, nearer and nearer to the boiling, maddening verge, until enveloped in the cloud of mist which continually ascends as though to escape the awful scene! Not prepared with umbrellas, &c., for the mist, we retreated a little and chose a position for view. A scene in full. There the rushing water, gathered in masses, shone, and then too, their final plunge into the boiling abyss below! Farther off to the Canada side, the Fall seemed like great masses of snow plunging from the verge above, until lost in the

city cloud which seemed to hide from them their awful doom! A beautiful rainbow spanned the chasm, and gave additional beauty to the scene.
The Fall is 170 feet, perpendicular, in a shape of a half circle or horse-shoe, and including Goat Island, which is about 200 feet wide at the Fall, and divides near the middle, the Falls are nearly mile wide.

We will not add anything further to this, but say, by way of apology, that the above was hastily sketched from Notes of Travel, and is consequently disconnected, and comes far short of doing justice to the subject. In our leave, we shall try, next week, to give a more interesting description of incidents, &c., of Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge, Lake Scenery, and other matters of interest.

W. D. SIEGFRIED.
Morgantown June 24, 1855.

THE SOUTH-WEST.

Extracts from Notes of Travel, in the Western Reserve.

The drought is the fearful in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, & Georgia, or in most districts of those States. Personal observation can bring one to realize the deep calamity covering the people. A large crop of the cotton crop lies on the banks of the rivers and cannot be got to market. Great commercial embarrassments result from this. Some of the people are buying sections are positively nearly in a state of starvation. Our car was selling at \$16 a barrel at Montgomery, Ala., and other things in proportion. When the steamers of lightest draft are half the time hanging on the bar, and can provisions be got to the people? More or less cotton or corn remains unplanted, because the ground is so dry it would not germinate if planted.

North Alabama, Tennessee, & Kentucky afford a striking contrast to the above. Rains have watered the earth. An immense breadth of land has been laid down to wheat, rye, oats and corn. I have traveled over twenty-seven of the States, and for the last twenty-five years, and I never, in any State or in any year, saw better crops on an average than now stand in Tennessee and Kentucky. The surplus is likely to be very great, if no accident occurs to the ripening grain.

It is a fact that in certain parts of Alabama the people have been pulling down the telegraph wires, because they think it prevents the rain. They have, at great labor, taken down and rolled up, and carried away 2 or 3 miles in a place in a single night. Strong guards are now placed on certain sections every night, to keep off these fanatics.

A Hen Nursing Kittens.

A correspondent of the Charleston Courier tells the following story of a Shanghai hen nursing kittens:

Upon entering my fowl house some little time since I discovered a cat comfortably ensconced in one of the nests, where she had littered three kittens, as pleased and comfortable as any young feline mother might be. A day or two ago, hearing a great mewing within, I opened the door, and found that a great Shanghai hen, well in the mode of setting, had abandoned the nest with eggs, and taken possession of the kitten nest, and much to the discomfort of Tom and Tabby junior, for they could not be made as comfortable as the foster mother as by the side of an old legitimate parent. In the old cat's nest, time was passing herself at the door, and night the old hen left her charge for the egg nest, but this morning I found her again in possession of the kittens, have again abandoned the nest with eggs.

A serious discussion is now in progress in Savannah, similar to that which has existed among the Roman Catholics in Buffalo, Hartford, New Haven, and other places. A Catholic writer comes out in a bold and lengthy exposure of the late Bishop Garland's tyranny, charging him with having taken away their chartered rights, and of setting aside their vestry constitution, and by laws, and not a member of the Catholic church had a voice in the disbursement of the revenues according to the church for the maintenance of the Bishop and his priests, or the salaries of officers of the church.

A strong solution of alum with some whiskey mixed in it, is said to be a most excellent remedy for the galled shoulders of horses. Apply it three times a day until the wound is healed.

Baltimore is to receive about \$2,000,000 from the McDonough estate—less than was originally expected.

Rock Oil an Illuminator.

We learn by the Boston Transcript, that Professor Silliman has been making experiments upon Rock Oil, which is found in inexhaustible quantities throughout our Western Virginia hills, and especially in the valley of the Little Kanawha river and its tributaries, in order to test its adaptability for burning in lamps as an illuminator. The result of his researches has been entirely satisfactory, having proved it to be superior to any known oil or burning fluid, in giving light; while at the same time it produces no smoke, and which will tend to render it of great value. The following is the statement made by the Transcript:

By means of distillation he obtained from the crude material, as taken from the surface of the water, about 90 per cent of the whole product, in a series of oils having valuable properties, though not all equally fitted for illumination and lubrication. By the original distillation, about 50 per cent of the raw material is obtained in the form of a thin, light colored oil, of a faint bituminous odor and of a density of about 750. Its value as an illuminator was tested with the following results:

1. The oil is burned to the best advantage in the common camphine lamp with a glass cone to direct the current of air, as with an unprotected wick it smokes badly.
2. When burned for twelve hours the uniformity of the light was greater than that of camphine, and neither the wicks nor the tubes were crusted.
3. Tested by the photometer, or apparatus for the measurement of light, the rock oil proved, in a rigid comparison with other illuminating agents, superior to them all in intensity of light and economy of consumption. The article which most nearly approached it was camphine, which, with more than double the consumption of fluid, produced a degree of about one-fifth greater.

As a lubricator, the rock oil is pronounced by Professor Silliman to possess the advantage of remaining fluid at a temperature of 15 degrees below zero, being entirely free from any corrosive quality, and of not becoming gummy or rancid, by exposure to the air.

There are other properties of the substance which will add to its importance as a natural product of the soil. Professor Silliman is now engaged in a series of interesting experiments upon it, as a material for producing gas upon the product of the last distillation, as a substance which, in the form of paraffine, resembles sperm, and on which excellent candles may be made. It is expected that the arrangements for distilling the rock oil will be completed by next fall, and the article sold at a moderate price. With sperm oil two dollars and a half a gallon, and at a proportionate price, and the exclusive burning fluid only to be used as a risk of one's life, a new illuminator, which shall combine the advantages of cheapness, safety and brilliancy of light, cannot fail to come into extensive use.

The article goes on to tell that a company has been formed, to have bought a hundred acres of land, and that a yield of five hundred gallons per day is being obtained therefrom at present. This oil, as we have before stated, is found in large quantities throughout the valley of the Little Kanawha River. In many places it rises to the surface of the water from the bed of the river, and is collected by skimming into barrels. For several years past various individuals have been engaged at California, in Wirt county, near Hays river, in gathering it from a vein, and an account of which was given. The news sometime since, and which is probably the same process as the one employed by the company spoken of in the Transcript. We also know of at least one place, where a deep well has been sunk, from the top of which the oil naturally exudes, being forced up by a power of the gas which rises with it.

The new use to which this oil will now be put, as a burning fluid, will probably increase the demand for it; and we see no reason, if such a demand should exist, why the procuring of it should not be made a business of importance in this section. Of one thing we are absolutely certain: that there is oil enough on the Kanawha river, to illuminate the whole country for many years.—Park News.

There is, on an average, about one fourth of a pound of potash to every one hundred pounds of soil, and about one eighth of a pound of phosphoric acid, and one sixteenth of a pound of sulphuric acid; if potash and the tops be continuously removed from the soil, it will soon exhaust its potash; if the wheat and straw are removed, it will soon exhaust the phosphoric acid; if corn and the stalks, it will exhaust the sulphuric acid. Unless there is a rotation of crops, or the material that the plants require, supplied from some source, the soil will soon run out, then the soil may continue rich for other plants.

Quite Romantic.

A correspondent of the Baltimore American writes from Norfolk, Va. under date of June 5th, as follows:

A singular romantic affair in real life has recently come to our knowledge. Some 25 years ago in this state there lived a happy married couple. They entered upon life with prospects as bright as the unclouded sun. They lived in affluence and prosperity; but two short years rolled round, and he who had plighted his faith, to love and protect the one he had loved in youth, by a course of dissipation was led to the last scenes of the gambling table. He soon squandered all his worldly goods and was reduced to penury and want. Reflection of his former prosperity and now reverse, drove him an exile from his home, a wanderer in a foreign land, and he left the former partner of his joys to seek fortune and happiness in some other quarter of the world. He roamed a stranger in every land—in every quarter of the globe. His prosperity and adversity were as varied as his abode. His wife thus left destitute with two young infants, with a woman's true and faithful nature, and with that love that only a mother knows, struggled and toiled under disadvantages which only those who under similar circumstances, can conceive or divine; and by her untiring energy to her needle, and with the strictest frugality and industry, succeeded in making a sufficiency to support and educate headstature children.

Years rolled on. The wife had given up all hopes of the safety or return of her once dear and only one. She abandoned the thought of ever seeing him again, friends meet and mourn with her, and offer the sympathies of true affection. Year after passed, and still no hope of his return. She has accumulated a competency, and by the persuasion of friends, a privilege and duty due to herself, she applies to a court of justice and is divorced—left free to marry or act as she may think proper. Her children have grown to maturity, one chooses the profession of medicine and graduates with honor, after a few years devotion, without success in his profession, he gave it up and sought some other employment. He married with a happy prospect and is now employed in one of the cities of Virginia as a clerk, and is receiving the highest wages in his branch of business.

He is now in the midst of his business, and amid ten thousand vicissitudes, and the roaming husband and father returns to give peace, happiness and abundance to his family. He has returned with riches, and seeks the wife and loved ones of his early days.

Betting.

We are opposed to betting particularly on elections, for sundry satisfactory reasons, political, social and moral. But if men must "back their judgement," we commend to them such a wager as two of our citizens have entered into. A friend of Mr. Wise and a friend of "Sam," each equally confident of success, have agreed after the election, to spend a day on the river fishing. They agree to take with them everything calculated to make a man feel "jolly." The loser is to sit all day in sight of every thing that can tempt his appetite, but the Tantalus in the Tartarian regions, not be permitted to touch. He is to catch, cook and serve to his companion all the fish he can, without tasting so much as a fin. He is to mix juleps, and hail storms, without putting a drop in his parched lips. Not a morsel is he to eat nor a thimble full of drink from the rising of the sun till the going down of the same. He is to have an umbrella by him, without the privilege of hoisting it. Let the sun scorch and the rain drench him as they may. Newspapers and books to be near but their contents are to be sealed to him. The winner is expected to make himself comfortable in any way his tastes or appetite suggests, but chiefly by beholding the sufferings of his companion. The penalty is as hard as the wager is novel—and we would not to add a faint to our subscription list, be on the "Wise" side of it.—Lynchburg Virginian.

The Austin State Gazette of the 19th.

It is reported that a fight lately took place near Fort Belknap, between one of the beef contractors and a squad of ranchmen, who desired to take the contractor before his being weighed out. The contractor succeeded at first in getting his cattle back, but it was only to weigh him in a trap. It was not long before he was again waylaid, when some Indians jumped out of an ambush and killed the contractor's horse and the horses of the company. The cattle were then stampeded, and the ranchmen securing some of them, had a fine feast at the expense of Uncle Sam.

What a Baggage!

In a recent suit in New York, the question whether a gold watch, a article of wearing apparel to be carried baggage. The Superior court decided it as an article of wearing apparel, and when not carried by the person, in a trunk, while traveling is to be carried baggage.

Is It Plainer?

In our commonly received version of the scriptures, we have occasionally a passage the meaning of which is not perfectly apparent. The American Bible Union proposes to remedy these imperfections. In their translation of Revelation vi: 6, they have done this work with what seems to me questionable success. The old version reads, "A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny." The Bible Union, in their new version, translate the text, "A chemix of wheat for a denarius, and three chemix of barley for a denarius."

Now, Messrs. Editors, is, or is not that clear? While the plain man might not know how much a measure is, will he be at a loss to know the quantity contained in a chemix? Will the uneducated rejoice when they read this clear and lucid rendering of the passage? Will the pious unlearned disciple pause when he reads this improvement, and exclaim, How plain! how easy to be understood!

A LOAFER IN EARLY TIME.

A certain individual from Washington, Va. made his appearance among the settlers and remained some days, when it was observed he seemed to court the society of the young men too much, and upon inquiry it was found that the only visible means of occupation he possessed was a pack of cards. He was notified to leave the settlement forthwith, but he heeded not the command; he was thereupon arrested and incarcerated. A second notice was served, but of no avail. He was then taken to the centre of the village, and there offered for sale, and was bought by a blacksmith who intended him into the arts of "blowing and striking." By day he was chained by the leg and at night he was locked up, and at the expiration of his apprenticeship, he was forced to the conviction that there were other ways of getting a living besides playing at cards. When however, he got clear of the settlement, he declared that "clerkly was the meanest place that ever a man put his foot in."

Taking the Responsibility.

Miss Nightingale, who so nobly devotes herself to the sick and wounded soldiers from the Crimea, recently sent to the proper officer for a supply of beds and mattresses for a number of sick soldiers who had to lie on the floor of the hospital, as there was no room for them to sleep. She delivered them without an order signed in due form by the officers of the hospital. She returned word that the bedding was needed immediately, and that the necessary formalities should be complied with when the officers returned. Being refused again, she went with a number of convalescents to the store-house, had its doors forced open, and took away the needed articles, telling the astonished door-keeper to report to headquarters that Miss Nightingale had forced open the door, and carried away what was wanted for the protection of the life of her majesty's sick soldiers on their own responsibility.

An Aged Minister.

The Rev. John Sawyer, of Garland, Me., the oldest orthodox minister in the United States, and now in his 100th year, arrived at the Marlboro' Hotel, last evening, in good health, having of late seemingly renewed his lease of life. We think, if no accident happens to him, he will live to a good old age. He is able to preach and often travels quite a distance from home to supply some destitute society, to establish Sabbath Schools, &c. Boston Journal.

It was recently decided in Milwaukee.

by Judge Larabee, that a lawyer is not liable for an action of slander for words spoken in arguing a case, before a jury or court. The decision was given in the case of John Jennings vs. James H. Payne—an action on the case for slander where the defendant had said that plaintiff "came into court with black perjury on his soul." The judge decided, that though the allegations were both true and malicious, the defendant's privilege as a counsel protected him.

Neglected Children.

Of five millions of children in Great Britain, between the ages of five and fifteen, only about 41 per cent attend school, and about 12 per cent are at work, and about 46 per cent are neither at school or at work. In the opinion of a prominent member of Parliament, England is nearly at the bottom of the scale in point of education.

The last rail upon the Lake Shore.

Railroad, between Chicago and Milwaukee, has been laid down and excursion trains have passed over the road. Heretofore, most of the travel between these two places, has been by the lake, but in the winter season by road over a mud road.

Subscription Vetoed.

The good people of Harrison county, at the late election, almost unanimously rejected the proposition to subscribe for stock in the Northwestern Virginia Railroad. The vote was 66 to 730.

DOMESTIC.

To Destroy Bugs.

Mix half a pint of spirits of turpentine and half a pint of best rectified spirits of wine, in a strong bottle, and add in small pieces, about half an ounce of camphor which will dissolve in a few minutes. Shake the mixture well together, and with a sponge or brush drip it into the cracks of the bed and furniture where the vermin breed. This will infallibly destroy both them and their eggs, though they swarm. The dust, however, should be well brushed from the bedstead and furniture, to prevent such cleanliness and stain. If that precaution is attended to, there will be no danger of smothering the richest or damask. On touching a living insect with only the tip of a pin put into the mixture, the insect will be instantly deprived of existence, and should any bug happen to escape after using the mixture, it will only be kept not waiting the linen, &c., of the bed, and hangings of the curtains near the joints or holes in and about the bed or head-board, in which places the vermin nestle and breed; so that those parts being well treated with more of the mixture, which dries as fast as it is used, and pouring it into the joints and holes, where the sponge and brush cannot reach, will never fail totally to destroy them. The smell of this mixture, though powerful, is externally wholesome, and to persons extremely sensitive, it is harmless; however, in two or three days. Only one caution is necessary, but that is important. The mixture must be shaken well when used, but never applied by candle light, lest the spirits, being attracted by the flame of the candle, might cause a conflagration.

Why do Sheep pull their Wool.

On this subject, a correspondent of the Boston Cultivator, says:
One reason is they are kept under cover too much in winter; another is they are kept in large flocks in too small yards the heat causing an irritation of the skin. Then again, if they are kept poor, and filthy without salt they will pull their wool. They should be provided with a warm well watered lot to go to at night, and a good lot, that will hold half a bushel; then fill it with salt and sulphur, at the rate of three pounds of sulphur to the bushel, and replenish it as occasion requires. Fill your box when the sheep first comes to the barn in the fall. Always feed them in boxes in the yard on early cut hay, with a little straw occasionally. The do best when fed in a cool place.

Mildew on Gooseberries.

My father had some nice gooseberry bushes; every year they would blow a fair prospect of fruit, and he would be about half grown, when the would all mildew, and not one be fit to eat. This state of things continued for several years when we happened to see that to pour strong soap suds over the bushes, about once or twice a week when the fruit was setting, would prevent the mildew. Last summer we tried it, and the bushes fairly bent with fruit, which would fairly make one's mouth water instead of their eyes as before. A neighbor of ours had gooseberries which mildewed in the way. Last spring, while cleaning his stove pipe, the idea was suggested, of putting the soap upon the gooseberry bushes. It was accordingly done and the result was that he had gooseberries without mildew. H. B. S. Rockport, Pike Co., Ill. KENNESAW FARMER.

Lice on Animals.

Having seen in your paper several remedies for lice on horses—such as feeding with sulphur washing with New England rum, washing with tobacco water, anointing with Sootell snuff and oil, and various other remedies—I would say that I have tried all these, and will not say any more of them, but I will answer the purpose effectually. I took soft soap, made with potash, and anointed the animal thorough with that and it did the business completely, destroying not only the lice but the nits also, so that there was not the slightest trace of the vermin left. If you think proper to publish the above, it may be worth something to those who have been troubled as I have been, to know of so effectual a remedy that does not endanger the health of the animal.—Boston Cultivator.

A husband thus finances the departure from his bed.

My wife Anna Malt has stayed in bed a long time, and she is now getting better. As for traveling, anybody can see that she is not as I never saw her so well as at present. I am all right, and I am thinking about it. There is a good deal of money in it, and I am thinking about it.